Mondays at the Museum
(at home!)

ORANGE REGIONAL MUSEUM

This week we are looking at **skeletons.**

Below is a picture of the skeleton of a red kangaroo from our new exhibition *Capturing Nature: early photography at the Australian Museum 1857-1893*.

Image: Skeleton of a Red Kangaroo, *Macropus rufus*.
Photo © Australian Museum

Putting together animal skeletons to show in a museum is a very tricky job. The first step was to clean the bones so there is nothing left but the skeleton. Sometimes museums would get flesh-eating creatures like insects to help!

The bones were then washed in clean water, dried and left in the sun to turn a bright white colour.

The skeleton then had to be put back together in the right order. This process is called 'articulation'. Sometimes people didn't know how to put them back together and they made mistakes.

ORANGE REGIONAL MUSEUM

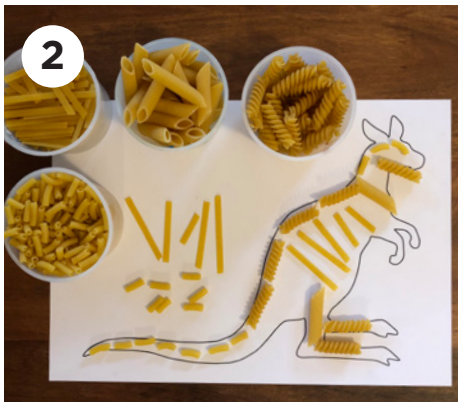
Kangaroo skeleton

This week we are recreating the skeleton of the red kangaroo on the first page. We're using things you can find at home. Can you make your skeleton match the one in the photograph?

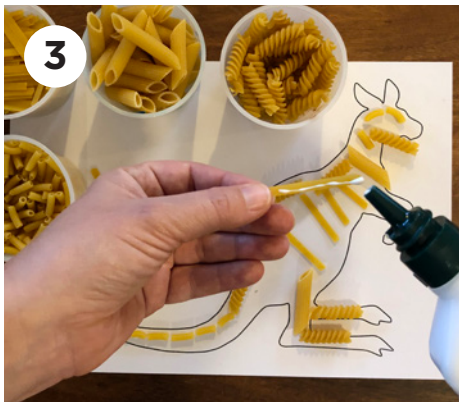
What you'll need:	Substitute
Template printed or sketched on A4 paper (heavyweight paper or card is best)	Sketch the template outline onto scrap cardboard (e.g. inside panel of a cereal box)
Pasta, in different shapes if possible	Cotton buds; matchsticks and paddlepop sticks
PVA glue	

Instructions

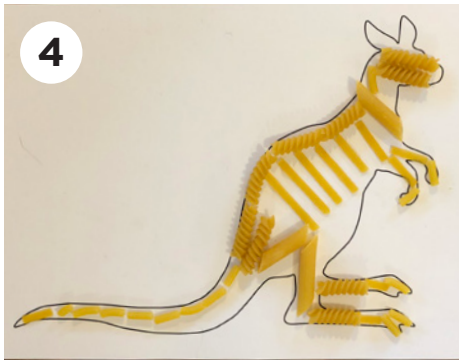
Get your materials ready, including your kangaroo, pasta and glue. We've used penne, broken fettucine, macaroni and spiral pasta.



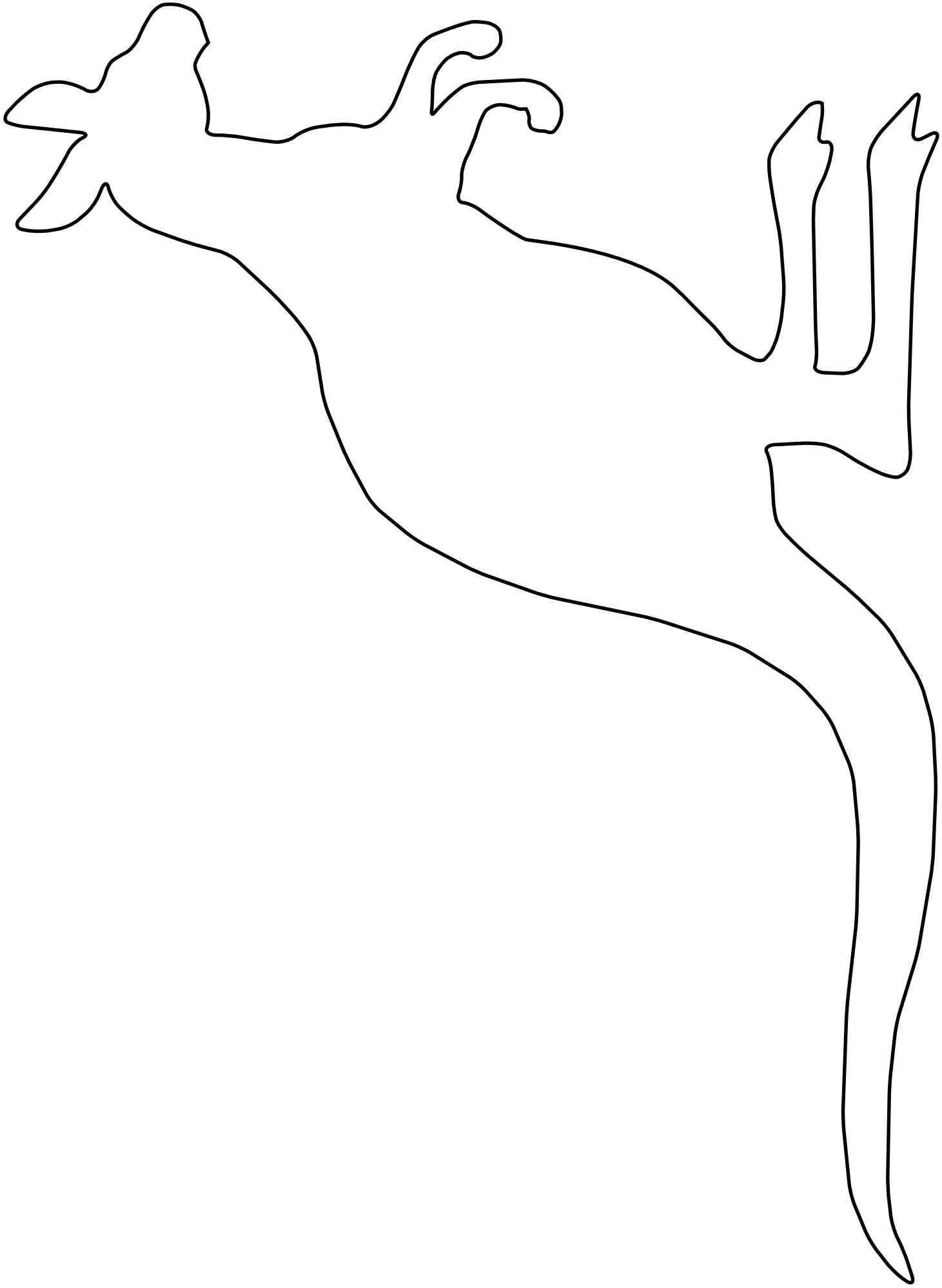
Look carefully at the photo of the kangaroo skeleton on the first page and make a plan of where some of the important pasta bones should be on your kangaroo.



Squeeze a small amount of PVA glue on to each piece of pasta and place on your page one at a time.



Continue until you have made a full kangaroo skeleton.



Extra Time:

1. Most animal species have two names. One is called the 'common' name, which is what you or I might normally call the animal. The second is called the 'scientific' name, which is a special name that scientists use to make sure they don't mix up similar animals. Scientists often use Latin, an ancient language not spoken anymore, to come up with the scientific name.

   Look at information about the photograph on the first page. Can you work out which name is the common name and which is the scientific name? Can you write the common and scientific names for your kangaroo next to your pasta skeleton?

2. Here are some other photographs of animal skeletons from Capturing Nature. Can you guess what animals would have these skeletons? (The answers are written upside down at the bottom of this page)

I am a: _____ I am a: _____

3. If you have extra paper, pasta and glue, choose one of the animal skeletons from the above and make their skeleton.

Answers for Q2: (a) Greater Flamingo, *Phoenicopterus roseus* (b) Western Gorilla, *Gorilla gorilla*